The main factor behind the relative stagnation in our exports to the USA has been the continuing recession in that country. The strategy for improving our global exports is based on measures to improve the competitiveness of our products and to provide a more conducive export environment. These measures include simplification and streamlining of the policies and procedures relating to imports and exports, reduction in import duty on capital goods, facilitation of access to inputs at international prices, income tax exemption of profits from exports and provision of pre-shipment and post shipment credi-on advantageous terms. In addition market specific promotional measures such as participation in fairs and exhibition are also being undertaken.

585. *[Transferred to 2nd, December.* 1992]

Manipulation in Import of Newsprint

586. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :

SHRI MD. SALIM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some top officers have been caught for manipulating the import of newsprint;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, CBI has registered a case in regard to import of glazed newsprint from M/s. FINNPAP, Finland against the former Director (Fin) STO alongwith others in May, 1992.

Fall in Export of Tea

587. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE ; SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated loss of tea crop in the country during the current year;

(b) what is the status of tea export during the current year as compared to the last year; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to boost production and, export of tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The estimated production of tea during the current year (January to .September, 1992) was 517.60 M. Kgs.,as against 546.20. M. Kgs. during the corresponding period of 1991 indicating thereby an estimated decline of '28.60 M. Kgs.

(b) The estimated exports of tea,during the current year vis-a-vis last year are as follows ;—

Period	Qty. (M. Kgs.)	Value (Rs./Crs.)	Unit price (Rs./Kg.)
April '92 to Sept., '92	68.52	381.81	55.72
April '91 to Sept., '91	102.87	570.32	55.44

(c) Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes for increasing tea production. These schemes inter-alia provide for long term loan, subsidies and grant in aid for the purpose of New Planting, Replanting, Rejuvenation, Creation of irrigation facilities, procurement of processing machineries etc.

In order to encourage tea exports various export incentives are granted to exporters in addition to promotional campaigns and schemes undertaken by Tea Board to populaitise Indian Tea abroad. Besides, Government has been encouraging idiversification of Tea export by sponsoring industry delegations to various countries. Trade Protocols have also been entered into with some of the CIS countries including Russia. Other countries! are being persuaded to buy higher quantities of Indian Tea, indicating them the price competitiveness and quality of our tea,